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Message Text

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14
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 EA-07 NEA-10

ITC-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 IO-11 /109 W
---------- 119038
R 121912Z MAR 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 748
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1835
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EEC
SUBJECT: EC/EFTA CONVERSATIONS ON AGRICULTURE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 2429

1. WE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING WITH A SINGULAR LACK OF SUCCESS TO EXPLORE THE RUMORS OF EC/EFTA CONVERSATIONS ON AGRICULTURE MENTIONED IN THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH LARDINOIS. THE LATTER SAID HE HAD ASKED FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH EFTA COUNTRIES ON DAIRY PRODUCTS, THOUGH HE KNEW THAT THIS MIGHT MEAN THAT THE EFTA COUNTRIES MIGHT SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS OTHER PRODUCTS (REFTEL). SOAMES' CHEF
DE CABINET, HANNAY, TOLD US THAT THERE HAD INDEED BEEN CONVRSATIONS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES (THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY CONTACTS IN THE
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AUSTRIAN AND SWISS MISSIONS HERE) BUT THE CONVERSATIONS HAD BEEN IN

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TERMS OF CONSULTATIONS ON HOW TO APPROACH THE ISSUE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE MTNS, GIVEN THE SPECIAL EC/EFTA RELATION. HOWEVER, HANNAY SAID THAT HE WAS NOT FULLY INFORMED ABOUT WHATWAS INVOLVED AND SUGGESTED THAT WE TALK TO PHAN VAN PHI, DIRECTOR FOR RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. PHAN VAN PHI DID NOT ADD MUCH. HOWEVER, BOTH HE AND THE COMMISSION DIVISION CHIEF IN CHARGE OF EC/EFTA RELATIONS, GOODCHILD, STATED THT NO ONE WAS ENVISIONING AN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION OF THE EC/EFTA AGREE-MENTS. NEITHER, ON THE OTHER HAND, DENIED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MIGHT BE AGRICULTURAL DISCUSSION ON PARTICULAR PRODUCTS. PHAN VAN PHI SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WAS CONDUCTING IN GENEVA AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND COMPARISION OF NOTES ON HOW TO HANDLE THE MTN WITH A NUMBER OF ITS MTN TRADE PARTNERS, INCLUDING EFTA AND THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, HE DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF ALL OF THE DAY-TO-DAY CONSULTATIONS THAT LUYTEN OR ABBOTT WAS HAVING IN GENEVA.

2. WE SUGGEST THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR MTN GENEVA TO APPROACH ABBOTT ON THIS SUBJECT (LUYTEN IS A SECONDARY POSSIBILITY). WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT WISHES TO ASK FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION IN EFTA CAPITALS.
HINTON

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